

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, and 24-27 were rejected in view of prior art. Claims 5, 14, and 23 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. However, to facilitate prosecution and without prejudice, applicant has amended the allowable claims such that all pending claims are either allowable or are dependent upon an allowable claim. In particular, the limitations of claim 5 are now incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6-9 should be in a condition for allowance. Similarly, the limitations of claim 14 are incorporated into independent claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-13 and 15-18 should be in a condition for allowance. Finally, the limitations of claim 23 have been incorporated into independent claim 19. Thus, claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-22 and 24-27 should be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims should be in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If there are any residual issues that can be resolved with a telephone call, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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